

Daily Maui News

A Republican Paper Published in the Interests of the People
Issued Daily Except Sunday.

MAUI PUBLISHING COMPANY, LIMITED
Proprietors and Publishers

M. R. PEREIRA, Manager

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$6.00 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

Entered at the Post Office at Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii, as second-class matter.

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JOSEPH H. GRAY

EDITOR

FRIDAY

DECEMBER 29, 1922

THE SCHOOL'S PARENT

Timely in connection with the annual convention of the Hawaii Education Association is a feature article of editorial style written by Angelo Patri, a clever writer who is conducting "Our Children" for the Boston Herald and appeared in the issue of that paper of November 7.

After a quarter of a century of school teaching I have decided the sort of parent that makes the ideal school parent. He has emerged out of a welter of all and sizes, dispositions and characters. Here he is:

He never comes to school unless he is in a reasonable frame of mind. If the teacher has sent home a bad report or his son had made bitter complaint against the teacher he waits until he can keep his voice even before he appears in the office to discuss the matter.

He is as quick to praise as to blame. That is a truly distinctive characteristic, for many blame us and few praise us. But the good school parent drops the teacher a note telling her how pleased he is with Junior's progress and how grateful he is to her for taking so much interest in the little rascal.

He always appears at the school functions and manages to say a word of appreciation to the teacher of his youngster and to the principal of the school. He attends the parents' meetings and offers his assistance when workers are needed. He helps raise the funds for the phonograph and heads the committee that asks for additional play space and science equipment for the school. He finds time to attend to school business.

When the school is under fire he speaks for or against with authority, because he has stayed close to the school and knows. He takes the side of the children regardless of anything else.

He is among those who ask for modern methods and equipment and understands the needs for both, although he went as a child to a small district school where the water pail stood on a bench with a tin dipper hanging above it, and where the teacher was some one who had some schooling and was pausing on his step up the ladder to make his next term's tuition.

He can remember this and yet he willing that the children of this generation have a better chance. He is willing even to the extent of attending meetings to push his idea and paying taxes to support it.

He is the sort of parent who dislikes gossip and who silences it by saying, "I'll step in and ask the teacher about this on my way down town tomorrow morning. I don't believe it and I'm going to give her a chance to speak for herself. Oh, well, of course, if you don't want me to I won't unless I should hear the story again."

He is the sort of parent who says to the teacher, "I'm going to trust you and believe in you until you make me do otherwise. You are the teacher and you are on the spot. I am the parent and I'm at a distance. You must do with the child what you think is best. I will support you with all my power."

"I expect you to remember that this child is mine and that he is endowed with my characteristics and animated by my ambitions. I know you will try to interpret him through what you know of me, and that you will ask me for help when you need it. I know you will work with me sympathetically and yet wisely, because you have the training and the knowledge and the desire to be of service. Count on me."

Oh, yes, I meet him every once in a while.

DON'T BUTT IN

President Harding has spoken to the point through Senator Lodge when he asks the senate to strike out the provisions in the Naval Appropriation Bill relative to the calling of an economic convention and a convention further to reduce armaments. It is the province of the President to execute the laws that congress passes and as he is the chief executive it is not the duty of congress to outline his administrative policies.

It is impossible for a President at all times to take the legislators into his confidence, especially so in regard to international subjects. There are occasions when a premature announcement of plans and purposes can work great harm by arousing jealousies one against another between nations with whom diplomatic measures are being conducted. Nations as a whole do not differ essentially from individuals. When one is seeking to harmonize a situation, bring about amicable relations between two or more individuals who are more or less at odds he must pave the way by approachments now to one and again to another, lest alarm and distrust be aroused instead of confidence and trust being born.

The President is the head of the administration. In him the people have reposed a trust and he becomes the representative head of the nation. A senator is the representative merely of the residents of one political subdivision of the United States. The executive is familiar with hundreds, perhaps thousands, of matters of detail that no one senator knows and which it is generally unnecessary that

the legislators should know. So President Harding knows more of the difficulties that were met by the Washington conference and of those that will have to be met if economic assistance is to be given to Europe.

Undoubtedly Senator Borah was governed by good motives in seeking to have embodied his proposals in the appropriation bill mentioned. Undoubtedly his purpose was not to embarrass the administration when he made those suggestions but he sought to usurp a prerogative of the executive department.

Always there has been a certain amount of jealousy between the legislative and the executive branches of the government. Each guards its right and prerogatives against encroachments of the other and in the recent recommendations in the Navy Bill savor of an intended encroachment by the legislative upon the executive department. As long as President Harding has the confidence of congress and does not abuse that confidence, he has the right to expect to be let alone in outlining the plans and the policies of his administration and most especially in this the case where he has to meet such complex and delicate issues as those that are now agitating Europe.

Italy's New Premier Cuts State Ownership

ROME. (By Associated Press Mail) — Benito Mussolini, Italy's new Prime Minister, who, until nine years ago was known as a Socialist, has begun his tenure of office by inexorably laying the ax to the root of all public service institutions owned or managed by the state, such as railways, telephones, telegraphs, letter and parcel posts, which show a deficit, and even some others which are more or less successfully run.

The railways in Italy are perhaps the most striking example of the difficulties and weaknesses of state management. During 17 years of such control, declares Professor Ugo Ancona, an expert on financial questions, they have ceased to be the largest producers of national profit, and are today virtually owned by the railroad men. Before the great war the railways brought in from 40,000,000 to 50,000,000 lire a year, which might be taken as interest on the five and a half billion lire which had been spent on constructing them. The deficit in 1921 was over a billion lire, although the price of tickets is now three times what it was, and it is said that the deficit for 1922 will be still greater.

In fact, says Professor Ancona, the net result of government management is disorder on all lines, deficiency of material, deplorable condition of running stock, service deteriorated, and discipline entirely wrecked. The number of employees and their wages have enormously increased; the average rate of pay having risen from 2000 lire a year before the war to over 10,000 lire today. To this should be added the greatly increased number of strikes and the fact that thefts on the railway, which to amount to about 10 million lire a year, have now risen to over one hundred million. Five billion and a half lire were spent in 60 years in order to construct the railways; two and a half lire have been spent during the 17 years of state control merely to enlarge them.

Professor Ancona says further that these troubles are due in large measure to the fact that the Italian railroad lines run through sections of the country each with widely differing economic, social and climatic conditions, thus creating a complicated and difficult system impossible for the state to manage successfully. Political interests have been permitted too much influence in deciding where new lines were to be built.

Another great drawback to the prosperity of Italian railways Professor Ancona says, is that the workers have insisted on an eight hours day, for all employees, even for those whose duty consists in opening and shutting a gate at a level crossing once or twice a day. This eight hours question has added 40,000 or 50,000 to the number of the personnel, and something likely 500 million lire to the expense of operation. The only remedy like to bring in a reign of economy and efficiency, according to this financial expert, is the radical one of gradually ceding to different private companies the lines which, as one great whole, have been such a failure in the hands of the state.

IRISH FIND NO JOY IN MOTORS

DUBLIN. (By Associated Press Mail) — Irish automobile owners are having hard times. Travel is difficult and dangerous, many roads are impassable, and repeated hold ups to examine permits discourage motoring. The tax for light cars works out at about ten shillings a week, and many drivers cannot get, under present conditions, more than 100 miles a week out of their cars. If the tax is not paid there is the risk that the authorities may confiscate the car.

Snappy Theaters Beat Out Movies In Paris

PARIS. (By Associated Press Mail) — The people of Paris spent a quarter of a billion francs yearly on theaters and motion pictures, and do not care to do much heavy thinking during the process. Government statistics on last year's receipts of every playhouse in Paris warrant these statements, and at the same time supply interesting information about what pleases the tired business man of France and his non-voting wife.

The theatres took first place with receipts of 86,000,000 francs, 11,000,000 more than the movies. The Folies-Bergeres, where the big scenes always hinge on the presentation of a group of handsome show-girls, tops the list of theatres, exceeding even the famous Comedie Francaise. The next in line among the dramatic houses is the Palais Royal, which always pursues a policy of giving highly spiced comedies of family life.

Prohibition Booms Xmas Trade In Flasks

NEW YORK. (By Associated Press Mail) — If the Christmas rum fleet reported to be bound for New York from the Bahamas succeeds in running the blockade of the dry navy, it should find New Yorkers amply supplied with receptacles for toting the forbidden liquor.

Several manufacturers declared today that the demand for flasks had doubled since the advent of prohibition. Shop windows with their Christmas decorations feature chandeliers drinking vessels which in "wet" days brought a shudder from society.

Stores are selling thousands of flasks — large ones for roomy coat pockets and small ones gracefully curved for the hip; expensive containers of silver and gold and cheaper ones covered with imitation leather.

Flasks are not the only drinking apparatus on display. Shown in abundance are hollow cases, decanters, glasses never blown for milk, and elaborate cocktail shakers.

Germany Looking To Return Of Colonies

HAMBURG. (By Associated Press Mail) — "Stood in Dar-es-Salaam 1908 — 1918; stood, re-erected, in Hamburg 1922 to —"

The above inscription appears on the bronze statue of Hermann von Wissmann, one-time governor of German East Africa, whose memorial was recently unveiled here after being transferred from its original site in that former German colony.

The blank date line speaks volumes. It embodies Germany's dream of one day regaining her lost prestige as a colonizing power. It signifies the confidence, born of determination, that she will some time recover the colonies swept away from her in the international adjustments following the world war. The Germans hope some day to fill this blank with a date, but only such date as marks the return of East Africa to the fold of the Fatherland, when von Wissmann's monument can go back to the shores of the Indian Ocean.

Speakers at the unveiling ceremonies urged renewal of the vows to carry on in Germany's political fight for the return of her war-lost possessions overseas. They said von Wissmann, as personified in the statue, was merely in Hamburg "on leave of absence home."

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Notwithstanding that this demand has resulted in a substantial advance in prices for bonds in general, the present outlook indicates a gradual trend toward the level which prevailed some years ago, particularly as applied to issues of the better grade, which still yield a liberal return.

It is doubtful if it will be possible for several years to purchase bonds at prices which will yield the return now possible.

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